

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 30, 2000 LB 1410

At the time I sent for it, they gave the impression that I would be on the ground floor but my...if this were a building I would be up in the clouds somewhere. But it is really a very pleasing thing to look at and it says you should not take it out of this protective container; that if you touch it your fingers will leave marks that cannot be taken off; you should not try to polish it because the softest material will scratch it. This was done in honor of the young Indian woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark and I think it's appropriate that this be done and I regret that not more is done in history to point out what other groups have...the part other groups have played in historical events in this country. Now, there was a black man with Lewis and Clark named York. I don't know if that was his first name or his last name. I don't know if he was named after New York City or York, Nebraska, or whether York, Nebraska, was named after him. But in Montana, Saint Louis, Wyoming, other states, even in their Capitols they will have portraits which show York with Lewis and Clark. When the expedition is written about they point out that one of the most important but least known personages was York. The Indians were tremendously fascinated by him and, as often happens when you come from that continent from which my ancestors derived, there was an attraction that women felt toward him. Little children would follow. So he got into the spirit of things and told them that he...he was a large man, that he was...he had been a wild animal and was captured and tamed, and the little children liked this, so when they followed him he'd turn around and he'd bare his teeth and growl and they'd scatter, like little children will do. Then, as soon as he turned around, they would all gather around again because he didn't harm them. What some of the plains Indians would do after a battle is use charcoal and cover themselves as a sign of bravery. The more of the body that was covered the braver the deed. So when they saw a man who was colored black from top to toe, side...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to side, front to back, they thought this must, indeed, be the bravest man who ever lived. And one of the chiefs put saliva on his hand and tried to rub the paint off that he thought was on York. So when they would have these councils and York would sit with them, they could not persuade